



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



March 2000

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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WISCONSIN, Southeast

WIZ063-066

Dane - Milwaukee

04 1200CST
08 1700CST

0 0

Record Warmth

A long period of near-record or record warmth affected all of southern Wisconsin during the early part of March, 2000. A persistent upper-level pattern that favored a jet stream position to the northwest or north of Wisconsin allowed warm air to be pushed into Wisconsin. Madison (Dane Co.) set a new record highs of 68 on the 5th, 69 on the 6th, 77 on the 7th, and 73 on the 8th. Madison also set new record high minimums of 50 on the 7th and 8th. Milwaukee (Milwaukee Co.) set new record highs of 59 on the 4th, 77 on the 7th, and 77 on the 8th. The 77 degrees highs on the 7th were are now the highest readings so early in the year for both Madison and Milwaukee. Newspaper articles indicated silver maples and pussy willows started to bud, and many migratory birds returned several weeks early. Many golf courses opened up while ski resorts closed. Normal highs and for early March across southern Wisconsin are in the mid to upper 30s while minimums are in the lower to middle 20s.

Dane County									
Mt Horeb	08	1658CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Walworth County									
Lake Geneva	08	1700CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Iowa County									
5 NE Hollandale	08	1708CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Columbia County									
Portage	08	1710CST 1713CST			0	0	4K		Hail (1.75)
Sauk County									
4 N Reedsburg	08	1710CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Dane County									
Blue Mounds	08	1721CST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Dodge County									
Leroy	08	1725CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Columbia County									
7 N Portage	08	1730CST			0	0	1K		Hail (0.75)
Columbia County									
Wisconsin Dells	08	1730CST 1735CST			0	0	1K		Hail (0.75)
Fond Du Lac County									
3 NE Waupun	08	1730CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Green Lake County									
Princeton	08	1730CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Racine County									
3 NW Waterford	08	1730CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Kenosha County									
Bristol	08	1732CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Marquette County									
3 S Glenoak	08	1735CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Waukesha County									
Muskego	08	1743CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Rock County									
5 E Milton	08	1745CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Dane County									
Marshall	08	1754CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)



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					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops
<u>WISCONSIN, Southeast</u>								
Marquette County 3 N Montello	08	1800CST			0	0		Hail (0.75)
Milwaukee County Greenfield to Milwaukee	08	1802CST 1815CST			0	0		Hail (1.25)
Jefferson County Waterloo	08	1804CST			0	0		Hail (0.75)
Columbia County 3 N Pardeeville	08	1805CST			0	0		Hail (1.00)
Dodge County 4 S Danville	08	1806CST			0	0		Hail (0.75)
Milwaukee County Milwaukee Mitchell Ar to St Francis	08	1810CST 1820CST	1.7	75	0	16	4.6M	Tornado (F1)



Narrative can be found below in summary of March 8, 2000.

Green Lake County Marquette	08	1813CST			0	0		Hail (0.75)
Dodge County Lowell to Juneau	08	1820CST 1827CST			0	0		Hail (1.75)
Jefferson County Palmyra	08	1820CST			0	0		Hail (0.75)
Waukesha County 4 N Eagle	08	1825CST			0	0		Hail (1.00)
Ozaukee County Port Washington	08	1830CST 1835CST			0	0		Hail (0.75)
Washington County 2 W Wayne	08	1845CST			0	0		Hail (0.75)



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<u>WISCONSIN, Southeast</u>									
Waukesha County									
Wales to Hartland	08	1845CST 1850CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Dodge County									
Horicon	08	1850CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Walworth County									
Whitewater	08	1850CST			0	0			Hail (0.88)
Dodge County									
Theresa	08	1855CST 1857CST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
Fond Du Lac County									
Byron	08	1905CST			0	0			Hail (1.50)
Washington County									
Germantown	08	1915CST 1920CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Fond Du Lac County									
Campbellsport	08	1920CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Ozaukee County									
Port Washington	08	1933CST			0	0			Hail (1.50)
Milwaukee County									
Milwaukee	08	1935CST			0	0			Hail (1.00)
Ozaukee County									
Mequon	08	1950CST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Milwaukee County									
Milwaukee	08	1952CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G58) ^M

After several days of record-breaking warmth, the stage was set for an out-of-season severe weather outbreak across southcentral and southeast Wisconsin. The city of Milwaukee recorded its earliest tornado ever (just before sunset), and an extremely large number of reports of large hail from 3/4 to 1.75 inches in diameter were relayed to the NWS Sullivan office. Most of the thunderstorms developed gusty winds on the order of 30 to 50 mph, but one managed to generate a gust of 58 knots (67 mph) at the TV-4 station on the north side of Milwaukee. The thunderstorm which dumped large hail 7 N of Portage also had winds that uprooted some trees and blew a car off of Interstate 39. An earlier thunderstorm that affected the west side of the city of Portage left the ground white with golf-ball size hail that also shattered several vehicle windshields. The thunderstorm that affected Wisconsin Dells also left the ground white with hail.

The Milwaukee tornado spun up about 1/2 mile east/northeast of the terminal building of General Mitchell International Airport, just east of Runway 19, moved northeast and crossed East Layton Avenue just east of South Pennsylvania Avenue in Cudahy, continued northeast through St. Francis, and dissipated over the northwest corner of Nathanael Greene Park. Apparently the tornado wasn't strong enough to cause any damage on the airport grounds, but it did cause considerable damage in Cudahy and St. Francis. Fifty-three (53) residential homes sustained minor damage and eleven (11) had major damage. Eight (8) businesses sustained major damage. Many motor vehicles were over-turned, several roofs were partially peeled off of homes, power lines and trees were toppled, and gas leaks were reported. Sixteen (16) people were injured enough to require medical treatment (lacerations), but there were no fatalities. Most of the people who were injured were in their vehicles. Based on this damage, it is estimated that maximum wind speeds of this tornado were 105 to 110 mph. The airport terminal building and control tower went on emergency power after commercial power was disrupted. Airport control tower officials were able to divert airplane traffic, consequently there were no aircraft mishaps. Preceding the tornado, there were reports of large hail and some tree damage in the forward flank downdraft of the parent thunderstorm over St. Francis and the southern part of the city of Milwaukee. The tornado was extensively photographed and captured on video tape. It briefly displayed multiple-vortex characteristics. The last time a tornado was documented in Milwaukee County was in May, 1989.

NWS Sullivan meteorologists speculate that an outflow boundary was pushed northwest to the airport area from a thunderstorm that earlier moved through the southeast corner of Milwaukee County. This outflow boundary may have focused low-level vorticity that helped generate the tornado. The parent thunderstorm possessed a mesocyclone. Synoptically, a deep low pressure was moving northeast through central Iowa toward northern Wisconsin. This movement put southern Wisconsin in a "dry slot" associated with strong jet stream winds aloft. The combination of surface dewpoints in the lower to mid 50s, strong speed shear between surface winds out of the south and southwest mid-level winds, sufficient instability due to daytime heating/temperatures in the 70s, and cold air aloft allowed thunderstorms to grow to 40,000 feet. Several thunderstorms had supercell characteristics, but only one was



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WISCONSIN, Southeast

assoicated with a tornado, and another with a funnel cloud. Thunderstorm movement was northeast at 50 to 60 mph (about 47 to 51 knots).

**WIZ046>047-056>057-
062>063-067>069**

Marquette - Green Lake - Sauk - Columbia - Iowa - Dane - Lafayette - Green - Rock

20	2100CST	0	0	Fog
21	0800CST			

Dense fog formed during the overnight hours and reduced visibilities to 1/4 mile or less. Numerous vehicle accidents resulted

**WIZ051>052-058>060-
064>066-070>072**

Fond Du Lac - Sheboygan - Dodge - Washington - Ozaukee - Jefferson - Waukesha - Milwaukee - Walworth - Racine - Kenosha

21	0100CST	0	0	Fog
	1000CST			

Dense fog developed during the overnight hours and reduced visibilities to 1/4 mile or less. Numerous vehicle accidents resulted.